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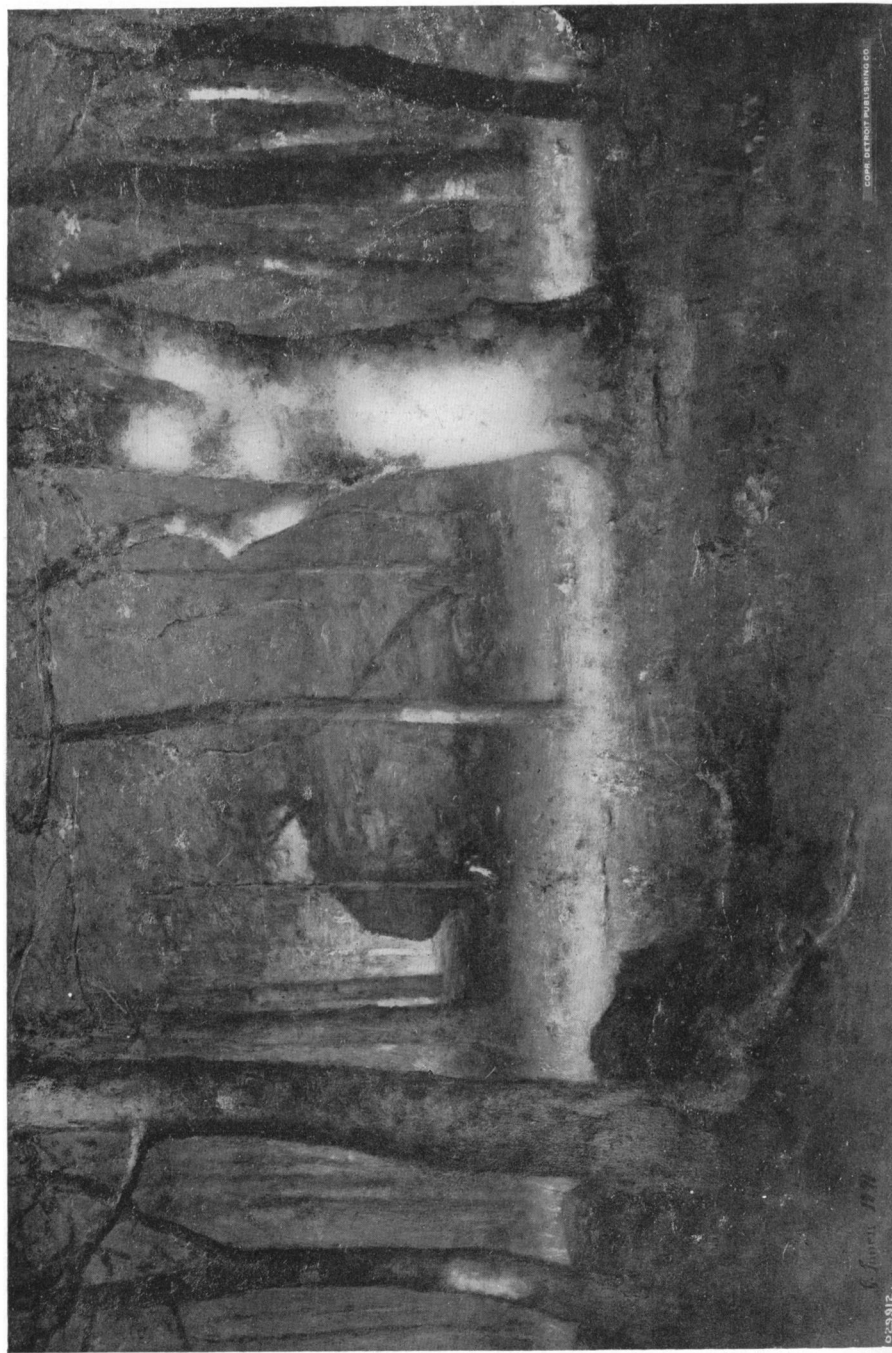
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"Sunset in the Woods," reproduced as the frontispiece to this number of ART AND PROGRESS, is one of George Inness's most dramatic and forceful paintings. It is a large canvas, measuring 48 by 72 inches, and it was acquired by the Corcoran Gallery of Art in 1891. At the time of its purchase Mr. Inness wrote the Director of the Corcoran Gallery as follows: "The material for my picture was taken from a sketch made near Hastings, Westchester County, New York, twenty years ago. This picture was commenced seven years ago, but until last winter I had not obtained any idea commensurate with the impression received on the spot. The idea is to represent an effect of light in the woods toward sundown, but to let the imagination predominate." For this idea the painter unquestionably found adequate expression. The effect of sunlight on the trunks of the trees is vividly real, yet appeal is distinctly made to the imagination. The coloring is strong and the tone full and rich, the brushwork broad and commanding. We are reminded of what the artist once wrote, that it was the business of painters to transmit to picture lovers, through the medium of their pictures, the emotions and the expressions of strength and power or poetic beauty which had come to them direct from nature. George Inness was born in 1825 and died in 1894. He has been called the "father of American landscape painting" because he was the first to seek to interpret emotion through unity of impression. But he was more than this—a great landscape painter among the artists of the world—one who had a message and a vision.



SUNSET IN THE WOODS

THE CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART

GEORGE INNESS